

cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith.

The Beta Alpha Omega Chapter (Newark, NJ) of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority in cooperation with the New Jersey Performing Arts Center sponsored the Second Annual Kwanzaa Festival honoring community elders. The person chosen to be honored on the first day of the 1998 Festival, December 17, was Dr. E. Alma Flagg. Dr. Flagg is truly deserving of this honor. She has spent most of her years in New Jersey working for the betterment of many. On May 2, 1995, I had the privilege and pleasure of bringing Dr. Flagg and her work to the attention of my fellow American citizens through remarks printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. It is not often that we are able to pay such important homage to the same individual within a short period of time. Dr. Flagg is one of the very few for whom a school has been named while still active.

Last year, Kwanzaa was recognized by the United States Postal Service with the printing of a postage stamp. Established in 1966, this celebration of family, community and culture is taking an important place in our diverse culture. I would like to thank Dr. Mabel B. Perry and Mrs. Greta D. Shepherd, Tribute Coordinators, for affording me this opportunity and bringing attention to this important commemoration.

As I stated on Tuesday, May 2, 1995, "Mr. Speaker, I am sure my colleagues would have joined me as I gave my best wishes to an outstanding human being and consummate role model, Dr. E. Alma Flagg".

THE WORLD WAR II GENERATION

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 6, 1999

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to share with my colleagues a commencement speech delivered at the University of Georgia, entitled "Reflections from the World War II Generation," by former Attorney General and retired Federal appellate judge Griffin B. Bell, on December 19, 1998. I hope each Member of the House of Representatives will take a moment and read this inspiring document.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE WORLD WAR II GENERATION

I am from the World War II generation. My youth was in the Great Depression, which tempered all who lived it.

The discipline of military service, indeed, the service itself in World War II, had a marked effect on some 14 million Americans who served. Following our service, our country educated many of us under the GI Bill of Rights. Ours was the first generation of Americans to include substantial numbers of people who had graduated from college.

The electronic revolution had its genesis in World War II and has continued to develop at a rapid rate until this day. Much of it was developed in the vast defense and space enterprises, which followed World War II and in the Cold War with the Soviet Union.

Some of our generation had to participate in the Korean War along with many other Americans who had not been in World War II.

We sent our sons to Vietnam if our sons wanted to serve. Vietnam was the first of our

peculiar wars where almost anyone could dodge service and, if all else failed, could run away to Canada. This meant that the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War were made up of poor people who did not know how to escape and those Americans who were patriotic enough to go even though they could have escaped.

The Vietnam War was the beginning of the sharp divisions in our country between those who served and those who did not or who did not support the war effort. It was during this era that we began to question values that had served us well for generations. Patriotism, to some, meant protest. The idea sprung up that there was no such thing as absolute truth; that truth was a relative term and therefore depended on the circumstances. We learned that there was such a thing as situational ethics; that ethics depended on the particular setting.

Our own children, known by some as the Yuppie Generation, were badly split over Vietnam and social mores. Many turned to drugs and the hippie life.

Our World War II generation had a large role in the civil rights revolution of the 60's. Many of the Yuppie Generation participated as well, thus a joint effort which reached across the two generations. The revolution was momentous in the history of our country. It stands as one of the nation's highest achievements—a revolution engaged in under law and contained within the law.

The Yuppie Generation has never had to face hard problems of war or depression. Its problems are smaller but still important. Our education system is in disrepair despite prosperous times, ill serving substantial numbers of people who are in the public schools. We experimented with leaving the neighborhood school concept and let the federal government into local education. We seem to have either lost the ability to manage the schools and the system or have lost the will to correct the problem. The school problem is exacerbated by poverty.

We are turning into a sound bite people. We catch the television news or hear the kibitzing on the radio. We are not readers. We are losing the ability to write well.

Politicians have learned to use the television and radio as a means of spinning the news to suit their purposes. A gullible populace seems to be taken in by the spinners. This is much like the medicine shows which passed through the small towns during my youth. As Oliver Goldsmith said in his poem, *The Deserted Village*, referring to the village schoolmaster when he spoke on the village square: "Amazed the gazing rustics ranged around; And still they gazed and still the wonder grew, How one small head could hold all he knew."

We must ask: Have we lost our capacity to govern in a representative government? Have the pollsters and polls taken over? Is there a need for us to have representatives or are representatives mere rubber stamps to obey the will of the polls? Pure democracy was a form of government rejected by the Founding Fathers. We must remember Jefferson's words that our representatives owe us their best judgment, not their votes. Their judgment is important.

During this period has come an era of bad manners—incivility and rancor in our private and political life, extremism in entertainment and sensationalism in the arts and in the media. How can we improve our discourse? What has happened to old fashioned courtesy? Nowhere is conduct worse than among the too-clever-by-half lawyers where the smart aleck and ill-mannered so-called advocate is destroying the nobility and high calling of the law, and perhaps the last vestige of good manners as taught us under the English Common Law practice. Sir Matthew

Hale, a British judge who died in 1676, in writing on ethics, gave us a rule that would serve us well today. This was his rule: In all my actions, I will seek to know and follow my better instincts, never my worst; the nobler course, never the baser; [I will seek to know and follow] the high purpose, never the meaner.

I suggest this as a good rule for all people of good will and good manners. We should expect no less from our leaders, whether public or private; that they take the high road.

Our country is passing now into your hands. We call you Generation X, and we wonder what your values will be and what your aspirations will be for our country and for your fellow citizens.

Based on my observations of my own grandchildren, I believe that Generation X will be one of our greatest. Your values will increasingly be in the public interest. You will accept the challenge of doing something about the poor public schools and about the fifteen percent of our population who live below the poverty level. You are our hope—our highest hope. How will you deal with our greatest failure: the scourge of drugs? Poor education and poverty will weaken our country, but drugs can destroy it. The prisons are filled, largely because of drugs. Using drugs is unpatriotic, but our leaders do not put the problem in those terms.

You have received a good education and are in a better position to serve others than many Americans. I hope that you will adopt the standard of noblesse oblige—"To those to whom much is given, of them is much expected."

Supreme Court Justice Lewis Powell may have been the greatest Southerner of this era—and certainly among the greatest Americans. On the occasion of his death, the *Richmond, Virginia Times-Dispatch*, in an editorial of his life, quoted him as having written, "As to values, I was taught—and still believe—that a sense of honor is necessary to personal self-respect; that duty, recognizing an individual's subordination to community welfare, is as important as rights; that loyalty, which is based on the trustworthiness of honorable men, is still a virtue; and that work and self-discipline are as essential to individual happiness as they are to a viable society. Indeed, I still believe in patriotism—not if it is limited to parades and flag-waving, but because worthy national goals and aspirations can be realized only through love of country and a desire to be a responsible citizen."

There is a chapter in Sandberg's *Life of President Lincoln* entitled "A Tree Is Best Measured When It Is Down." This chapter includes many of the tributes paid to President Lincoln after his assassination. One of the tributes was by the great Russian writer, Tolstoy, who, when asked by Russian tribesmen to tell them about President Lincoln, responded, "Lincoln was a great man. He was greater than Alexander the Great and greater than George Washington. The reason he was great was his values. Everything that he did was rooted in four great values: humanity and justice, truth and pity."

Truth is important. It is the bedrock of our legal system, and the legal system is the bedrock of our country.

I speak of a legal system as being different from justice. Justice is that which is rendered in the legal system. It is the redeeming virtue of our country; that no person is above the law and no person is below the law; we are all equal before the law. You must take care to see that no fellow citizen is ever denied justice. You must also take care to see that there are no preferred citizens in the sense that the rich and well-to-do can have a different kind of justice. I direct your attention to the latterday style of trial

where the witnesses or prosecutors or judges are attacked by packs of lawyers using the media as a way to avoid guilt, although the guilt is never denied. This will not do in a great country. It will not do among free people.

Humanity and pity are the two other values mentioned by Tolstoy. A strong feeling of humanity would make us evermore attentive to problems of poverty and education, and to seeing that every American is treated fairly and has a fair chance. Pity is more for the individual basis, but is a mark of decency—a standard to which we can all repair.

I hope that as you leave this great institution, you will take with you, as a part of your education, love of country and love of your fellow citizen. Even with its blemishes, ours is a great country; the greatest. I have always said that I am proud to be a Southerner, but am proudest of all to be an American.

And now ends your last lecture.

A TRIBUTE TO MINNETONKA POLICE CHIEF RICHARD W. SETTER UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 6, 1999

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great Minnesotan who represents the absolute best in public service for his sterling leadership and remarkable professional career in law enforcement.

You see, Mr. Speaker, my hometown's Director of Public Safety and Chief of Police in Minnetonka, MN, Richard W. Setter, has had a profound impact on my career.

After 14 years in his current position, and following four distinguished decades in law enforcement, Richard Setter is retiring. He leaves an immense legacy.

Tough. Fair. Integrity. A real leader. Those are just a few of the descriptions that come to mind when you think about Dick Setter's impressive career.

He has superbly led the Minnetonka Police Department since April 30, 1984. In 1994, when he became Director of Public Safety as well as Chief of Police, he smoothly and effectively merged the police, fire and emergency management departments. With 149 full and part-time personnel serving our city of 53,000 people, Chief Setter has helped make the Minnetonka Department of Public Safety well known throughout Minnesota as a shining lighthouse of an example for other communities.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to implementing community-oriented policing, organizing neighborhood crime watch groups, forging cooperative anti-drug task forces and creating anti-crime programs at multiple housing and shopping center sites, Chief Setter's Minnetonka Public Safety Department has shown the way. And when it comes to steering youth away from at-risk behavior, Dick Setter has been a real trend-setter. He knows how important it is to prevent crime by fighting its root sources and by putting resources into the front end, which saves our communities and the nation expensive resources in the long run.

It has been a long and remarkable run for Chief Setter, who has been honored repeat-

edly for this pioneering, visionary police work. The Boy Scouts of America named him recipient of the Silver Beaver and Youth Services Awards. Rotary selected him as a prestigious Paul Harris Fellow. The NAACP has praised Dick's public service. And our area's largest radio station, WCCO, has chosen him for its well-recognized "Good Neighbor" award.

This record of excellence pervades all that Dick Setter touches. Starting with his first position as a patrol officer in rural Owatonna, MN, and continuing wherever he has gone—including 23 years as a patrol officer, investigator, supervisor and chief of police in nearby St. Louis Park—Dick has been successful in making our streets, schools, and neighborhoods safer.

Dick Setter's superior performance has resulted in his repeatedly being asked to lead important law enforcement and crime-fighting efforts. Most recently, Chief Setter served as President of the 1,500-member FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Association. He has been a member of that group for 17 years and in a leadership position for 12 years, including as a counselor at the FBI Academy in Quantico. He has also served as Chair and Vice Chair of the Minnesota Peace Officers Standards and Training Board, President and Vice President of the Hennepin County Chiefs of Police, a member of the board of the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association, and in many other leadership positions.

Mr. Speaker, by any measure of merit, Chief Setter is one of America's best and brightest law enforcement professionals, and he will be sorely missed by the people of Minnetonka.

I truly value all the wise counsel Chief Setter has provided me through the years on so many matters. It is not possible to find words adequate enough to properly convey my appreciation for all Dick Setter has done for me and for the people of our community and State.

Mr. Speaker, Dick Setter's influence on my career has been substantial. As a direct result of my interaction with him, I have made the fight against crime and drugs—a battle which has ravaged our cities, infiltrated our schools and dramatically affected our neighborhoods and families—my top priority over the past 18 years as a State senator in Minnesota and here in Washington.

Because of Dick Setter and other good friends in law enforcement, I have successfully sought leadership positions in government to make a real difference on crime and drug policy, such as my present position as Co-Chair of the House Law Enforcement Caucus.

Mr. Speaker, I want to wish Dick Setter the very best in all his future endeavors, including his professorship at the Minnesota State University in Mankato—where he has been inspiring future law enforcement officers for two decades. I can't imagine a better role model.

Thanks again, Dick, for all you have done for the people of Minnetonka and for our State and Nation. God bless you and your wonderful wife Patty. You have made our community immeasurably stronger and safer, and we're deeply grateful!

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE HMO IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1999

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 6, 1999

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Medicare HMO Improvement Act of 1999.

By the end of 1998, over 8,000 senior citizens in my district—and over 13,000 throughout Connecticut—received perhaps the most frightening news any American can get. Their Medicare HMO's informed them that they are terminating their health insurance by the end of the year. Some of these seniors were recruited only months before through aggressive company marketing campaigns.

Insurers came to the Federal Government in the early 1980's and said "We're private industry, we can run Medicare better than you can while giving more services to seniors. Give us a chance." Well, we gave them a chance and they let our seniors down. The companies thought they could just jump in and jump out of my district, and others around the country, without regard to the health and well-being of the seniors that they had signed up just months ago. Across our Nation, Medicare HMO's have terminated health insurance for nearly 440,000 seniors. That is not acceptable. That is not a responsible way to operate a business whose primary purpose is to ensure people's health.

The termination announcements sent shock waves through Tolland, Windham and New London counties. At a public meeting I hosted with Senator CHRIS DODD in September 1998 following the announcement that 7,000 seniors would lose their coverage by year's end, 400 seniors gathered to hear about their options for the future. The tension, anxiety and desperation of my constituents pervaded the room. One of my constituents, whose wife had recently had a stroke, was so upset about losing health insurance that after asking a question, he had a heart attack. That man, Frederick Kral, died on the way to the hospital.

Under the current system, Medicare HMO's can act with impunity. There no accountability, no responsibility. Profits are all that matter. Patients and quality health care are secondary. This is just wrong.

My legislation—the Medicare HMO Improvement Act of 1999—will inject some accountability into the Medicare HMO system. It will change the contract term from 1 year to 3 years. This change is designed to discourage HMO's from making short-term promises to seniors only to terminate coverage a year later when they don't make quite as much money as they hoped. It gives the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) authority to enjoin contract terminations for up to one year if public health will be seriously threatened, insurance coverage will be compromised, or the Governor of the state affected requests that the Secretary exercise this authority.

Moreover, my legislation is designed to discourage HMO's from "cherry picking" between regions within a State by offering coverage only in those areas with the highest reimbursement rates. It accomplishes this goal by requiring the Secretary of HHS to terminate all contracts a Medicare HMO has for a metropolitan statistical area (MSA) if that HMO terminates coverage in any portion of the MSA in